AC 4898
45/2/6
1114
10, PARK ROAD,
OXFORD

COUNTY OF WEST LOTHIAN.

REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

COUNTY AND DISTRICTS

1929.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28657214

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE
10, PARKS ROAD, OXFORD

COUNTY OF WEST LOTHIAN.

REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

COUNTY AND DISTRICTS

1929.

To the County Council and District Committees of the County of West Lothian.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Linlithgow and Bathgate Districts of the County of West Lothian for Year ending 31st December, 1929.

The first part of the Report deals with matters affecting the Public Health Adminstration of the County not specifically dealt with in the District Reports and with Schemes in which the two Districts are combined.

The Report for each District is arranged according to the arrangement requested by the Department of Health for Scotland.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant.

GEORGE Y. RICHARDSON.
Medical Officer of Health.

22nd April, 1930.

COUNTY OF WEST LOTHIAN.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1929.

COUNTY.

Vital Statistics—Year 1929.

Population (Census 1921)	52,329
Population (estimated to middle of 1929)	53,160
Births—Corrected Number	1,065
Births (Illegitimate)—Corrected Number	70
Marriages	216
Deaths—Corrected Number	592

STATISTICS FOR EACH DISTRICT.

	Linlithgow District	Bathgate District
Population (Census 1921)	15,632	36,697
Population (estimated to middle of 1929)	15,034	38,126
Births—Corrected Number	273	792
Births (Illegitimate)—Corrected Number	22	48
Marriages	59	157
Deaths—Corrected Number	154	438

RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

	Linlithgow District	Bathgate District
Birth Rate—Corrected	18·2	20·8
Marriage Rate	3·9	4·1
Death Rate (All Causes)—Corrected	10·2	11·5
,, ,, (All Tuberculosis)—Corrected	·33	·6
,, ,, (Tuberculosis of Respiratory System)—Corrected	·2	·24
,, ,, (Principal Epidemic Diseases)—Corrected	·13	·58
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births)	59	91

NOTE.—The principal epidemic diseases are Typhoid Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

Number of Births and Birth Rate (Corrected) during the last 10 years.

Years	Linlithgow District. Births	Linlithgow District. Birth Rate	Bathgate District. Births	Bathgate District. Birth Rate
1920	470	28·9	1,240	35·1
1921	374	23·9	1,138	31
1922	354	22·2	1,049	27·8
1923	357	23·1	987	26·6
1924	313	20·6	956	26
1925	316	20·4	957	25·2
1926	313	20·2	894	23·3
1927	297	19·3	808	21
1928	306	20	836	21·7
1929	273	18·2	792	20·8

Number of Deaths and Death Rate (Corrected) during the last 10 years.

Years	Linlithgow District Deaths	Linlithgow District Death Rate	Bathgate District Deaths	Bathgate District Death Rate
1920	165	10·1	408	11·5
1921	177	11·3	378	10·3
1922	183	11·5	440	11·6
1923	170	11	394	10·6
1924	169	11·1	399	10·9
1925	187	12·1	390	10·3
1926	159	10·3	399	10·4
1927	163	10·6	397	10·3
1928	164	10·7	387	10
1929	154	10·2	438	11·5

Ages at Death.

The Number of Deaths at the various Age Periods during 1929.

Age Periods. Years	Total Deaths	Linlithgow District	Bathgate District
0- 1	88	16	72
1- 5	42	11	31
5-10	12	1	11
10-15	10	2	8
15-25	22	6	16
25-35	30	11	19
35-45	39	8	31
45-55	55	13	42
55-65	87	26	61
65-75	106	32	74
75-85	87	22	65
85 and over	14	6	8
	592	154	438

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES DURING 1929.

	Total Deaths	Linlithgow District	Bathgate District
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Measles	3	0	3
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1
Whooping Cough	4	0	4
Diphtheria	6	1	5
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	10	1	9
	24	2	22

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths of Infants and Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births) during last 10 years.

Years	Linlithgow District. Deaths	Linlithgow District. Death Rate	Bathgate District. Deaths	Bathgate District. Death Rate
1920	34	72	106	85
1921	34	91	101	89
1922	29	82	107	102
1923	28	78	79	80
1924	26	83	86	90
1925	24	76	68	71
1926	27	86	71	79
1927	23	77	70	87
1928	26	85	72	86
1929	16	59	72	91

Infectious Diseases.

The number of notifications of the chief Infectious Diseases during 1929 as compared with the number during 1928.

	Linlithgow District. 1928	Linlithgow District. 1929	Bathgate District. 1928	Bathgate District. 1929
Typhoid Fever	0	0	2	0
Scarlet Fever	63	37	108	95
Diphtheria	57	36	72	64
Erysipelas	15	11	24	52
Puerperal Fever	1	3	1	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	3	0
Chickenpox	10	88	97	145
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	1	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	21	8	9	23
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	4	5	2	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	7	33	36
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	6	82	76
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	2
	201	201	434	513

Tuberculosis.

The Scheme for the control of Tuberculosis deals with all cases occurring in the two Districts and the six burghs in West Lothian.

Treatment is offered to persons suffering from either form of the disease and the following is a summary of the treatment provided :—

(1) Admission to Sanatorium if accommodation is available.

(2) Provision of Medical Comforts, i.e., food as an addition to ordinary diet.

(3) Provision of Drugs (including Cod Liver Oil Emulsion or Malt, Dressings and Apparatus).

(4) Provision of travelling expenses in special cases for patients travelling to Edinburgh for "Light Treatment."

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—69 cases (43 males and 26 females) were notified during 1929. These cases were notified from :—

District	Males	Females	Total
Linlithgow	4	3	7
Bathgate	22	14	36
Burghs			
Armadale	2	4	6
Bathgate	6	2	8
Bo'ness	3	1	4
Linlithgow	3	1	4
South Queensferry	1	1	2
Whitburn	2	0	2
	43	26	69

Number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the last 5 years.

Years	Males	Females	Total
1925	33	33	66
1926	43	33	76
1927	43	30	73
1928	32	39	71
1929	43	26	69

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—128 cases (63 males and 65 females) were notified during 1929. These cases were notified from :—

District	Males	Females	Total
Bathgate	37	39	76
Linlithgow	1	5	6
Burghs			
Armadale	5	3	8
Bathgate	9	7	16
Bo'ness	9	7	16
Linlithgow	0	3	3
Sonth Queensferry	0	0	0
Whitburn	2	1	3
	63	65	128

Number of cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the last 5 years.

Years	Males	Females	Total
1925	57	47	104
1926	71	78	149
1927	79	61	140
1928	61	59	120
1929	63	65	128

Sanatorium Treatment.

EAST FORTUNE SANATORIUM—Number of cases of Tuberculosis treated during 1928 :—

	In East Fortune on 1st Jan., 1929	Admitted during 1929	Discharged during 1929	In East Fortune on 31st Dec., 1929
Males	18	28	21	23
Females	14	13	15	10
Children	23	22	18	26
	55	63	54	59

Of the total cases treated 60 suffered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 58 suffered from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Dr Cameron's Report on the work carried out at East Fortune should be read by all interested in Tuberculosis.

Domiciliary Treatment.

Medicines and dressings prescribed by Medical Practitioners for Insured persons suffering from Tuberculosis were supplied as formerly.

Malt and Cod Liver Oil were supplied in a few cases to Uninsured persons.

Milk was supplied in two cases.

Nine patients suffering from Lupus or other forms of Tuberculosis of the subcutaneous tissue were granted their travelling expenses to enable them to attend regularly for "Light Treatment" at the Skin Department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases.

The Scheme for the treatment of persons suffering from Venereal Diseases in the County of West Lothian and the Burghs therein remains in operation.

There is an arrangement with the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary whereby patients suffering from those diseases may attend for consultation and treatment.

Patients who require treatment as in-patients are admitted to special wards in the Infirmary.

Treatment is carried out with the greatest possible secrecy.

Examination of specimens is carried out at the Infirmary Laboratory.

Medical Practitioners in the County and Burghs are supplied with the necessary outfits for taking specimens on application being made to the Venereal Diseases Department, Public Health Office, Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh, and specimens for examination should be sent to the Clinical Pathologist, Pathological Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Attendance of Patients.

During 1929 the number of new cases attending as out-door patients amounted to 203—139 men and 64 women and children. There is a decrease of 24 in the number of new cases compared with 1928.

The total attendances of old and new cases numbered 10,480 as compared with 11,320 last year.

16 men and 22 women and children were admitted to the Hospital Wards for in-door treatment.

During 1928 the total receiving in-door treatment numbered 37—16 men and 21 women and children.

At the end of 1929 approximately 160 patients from the County and Burghs remained under treatment.

Travelling Expenses.

The cost of travelling expenses to and from Edinburgh for treatment was paid in 24 cases.

LINLITHGOW DISTRICT.

(A) GENERAL STATE OF THE DISTRICT—The general sanitary condition is good and the death rate is low.

(B) ENQUIRIES—No general or special enquiries have been required or called for during the year.

(C) SPECIAL WATER SUPPLY DISTRICTS—The supply of water to the Special Water Supply Districts is of good quality and sufficient in quantity.

(D) SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICTS—The drainage systems of the Special Drainage Districts are satisfactory.

(E) RIVERS POLLUTION—No action in connection with Rivers Pollution was necessary during 1929.

(F & G) HOUSING—The District Sanitary Inspector is the Official appointed to carry out the provisions of the Housing Acts and details will be found in his report.

(H) TOWN PLANNING SCHEME—No particulars to report.

(I) CAUSES, ORIGIN, AND DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASES—

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Census 1921)	15,632
Population (Estimated, 1929)	15,034
Number of Births—Corrected (Males, 128 ; Females, 145)	273
Birth Rate per 1,000—Corrected . . .	18·2
Number of Deaths—Corrected (Males, 82 ; Females, 72)	154
Death Rate per 1,000—Corrected and Adjusted .	11·7
Number of Deaths of Children under 1 year . .	16
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births . .	59

PRINCIPAL RATES FOR LAST 5 YEARS—

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Birth Rate—Corrected .	20·4	20·2	19·3	20	18·2
Death Rate (All Causes)—					
Corrected and Adjusted	13·9	11·8	12·2	12·3	11·7
Death Rate (Tuberculosis)	·9	1·16	·91	·92	·33
Infantile Mortality Rate	76	86	77	85	59

CAUSES OF DEATHS—The principal epidemic diseases caused 2 deaths ; one was due to Diphtheria and one to Diarrhœa. There were 3 deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system and other causes of death were :—

Influenza	20
Heart Disease	16
Apoplexy	12
Malignant Tumours	21
Bronchitis	5
Pneumonia	12
Violent Deaths	8
Diseases of Early Infancy	10

(J) INFECTIOUS DISEASE—The following is a list of the cases of Infectious Diseases which were notified during 1929—

Typhoid Fever	0
Scarlet Fever	37
Diphtheria	36
Erysipelas	11
Puerperal Fever	3
Chickenpox	88
Acute Primary Pneumonia	8
Influenzal Pneumonia	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6
	201

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred and it was not necessary to take any special action to prevent the spread of Pneumonia.

63 cases of Scarlet Fever and 57 cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1928.

(K) CHANGES IN HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, ETC.—SMALLPOX—Should an epidemic occur cases of Smallpox will be admitted to Drumshoreland Hospital and all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, etc., which in normal times would be admitted to Drumshoreland Hospital will be sent to Linlithgow Joint Fever Hospital.

(L) CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS—It was not necessary to close any school in the District on account of Infectious Disease during the year.

(M) VENEREAL DISEASES—The Scheme for the treatment of persons suffering from Venereal Diseases in the County of West Lothian and the Burghs therein remains in operation as formerly. Patients are treated in Edinburgh. Details will be found in the first part of this report.

(N) TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME—The Scheme for the administrative control of Tuberculosis deals with the cases of Tuberculosis in the County of West Lothian and the Burghs therein. Details will be found in the first part of this report.

(o) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE—There is no Scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare in the District.

1. BIRTHS

(a) Number Registered—Legitimate	232
Illegitimate	14
	246
(b) Number notified	175
(c) Births attended by Doctors	183
Births attended by Midwives	63
(d) Number of Still Births	2

2. INFANTILE MORTALITY—YEAR 1929.

(a) Number of Deaths	16
(b) Rate per 1,000 Births	59

(c) Deaths classified according to Age Groups :—

	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	3
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	0	0	0	0	1
Injury at Birth	1	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth	4	1	0	0	0
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	2	2	0	0	0
All other causes	0	0	0	1	0
Total	7	3	0	1	5

3. MATERNAL MORTALITY

(a) Deaths from Miscarriage or Child-Birth	1
(b) Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0

4. MIDWIVES—REPORT UNDER THE MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915

A Report under the Act has been sent to the Central Midwives' Board.

Five Midwives practised in the District and they attended 63 births during 1929.

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Puerperal Sepsis occurred in their practices.

Two still births occurred in the practice of midwives.

The total number of cases of Emergency to which Medical Practitioners were called under Section 22 of the Act numbered 14.

24. Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Regulations—No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Of the three cases of Puerperal Fever all were removed to Hospital at the expense of the Local Authority and all recovered.

(p) Notification of Births Act, 1907—Of 246 births registered in the County 175 were notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

(q) Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Act, 1927—There are no Maternity Homes registered in the District.

(r) Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Acts—

1. & 2. Details will be found in County Veterinary Inspector's Report.

3. Outbreaks caused by Milk—No action necessary.

4. Milk Grading—Details will be found in the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector and the Veterinary Inspector.

(s) Inspection of Meat, etc.—See report of District Sanitary Inspector and the County Veterinary Inspector.

(t) Factories and Workshops—84 inspections were made of factories and workshops in the District. Defects were found in the Sanitary Accommodation in one case.

BATHGATE DISTRICT.

(A) GENERAL STATE OF THE DISTRICT—The General sanitary condition is good and the death rate is low.

(B) ENQUIRIES—No special enquiries were necessary.

(C) SPECIAL WATER SUPPLY DISTRICTS—The water supply to the District will be improved when the new reservoir on the Lyne Water is completed. Details will be found in the Water Engineer's Report.

(D) SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICTS—The drainage systems and the treatment of sewage in the Special Drainage Districts continues to be satisfactory. Details will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(E) RIVERS POLLUTION—Details under this heading will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(F & G) HOUSING—The District Sanitary Inspector is the Official appointed to carry out the provisions of the Housing Acts and details will be found in his Report.

(H) TOWN PLANNING SCHEME—No particulars to report.

(I) CAUSES, ORIGIN, AND DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASE—

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Census 1921)	36,697
Population (Estimated, 1929)	38,126
Number of Births—Corrected (Males, 372 ; Females, 420)	792
Birth Rate per 1,000—Corrected	20.8
Number of Deaths—Corrected (Males, 236 ; Females, 202	438
Death Rate per 1,000—Corrected and Adjusted	13.4
Number of Deaths of Children under 1 year	72
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	91

PRINCIPAL RATES FOR LAST 5 YEARS—

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Birth Rate—Corrected	25.2	23.3	21	21.7	20.8
Death Rate (All Causes)—					
Corrected and Adjusted	12	12.1	12	11.6	13.4
Death Rate (Tuberculosis)	1.03	.84	.96	.57	.6
Infantile Mortality Rate	71	79	87	86	91

CAUSES OF DEATHS—The principal epidemic diseases caused 22 deaths and of these. 19 occurred amongst Children under 5 years of age. There were 9 deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System and other causes of death were :—

Heart Disease . . .	44
Apoplexy . . .	19
Bronchitis . . .	35
Malignant Tumours . .	38
Pneumonia . . .	25
Diseases of Early Infancy .	34
Influenza . . .	28

(J) INFECTIOUS DISEASE—The following is a list of the cases of Infectious Diseases which were notified during 1929 :—

Typhoid Fever . .	0
Scarlet Fever . . .	95
Diphtheria . . .	64
Erysipelas . . .	52
Puerperal Fever . .	7
Chickenpox . . .	145
Opthalmia Neonatorum .	0
Encephalitis Lethargica .	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia .	23
Influenzal Pneumonia .	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .	36
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	76
Puerperal Pyrexia . .	2
	513

It was not necessary to take any special action to prevent the spread of Pneumonia.

In 1928, 108 cases of Scarlet Fever and 72 of Diphtheria were notified.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is provided by the Local Authority to Medical Practitioners.

(K) CHANGES IN HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, ETC.—Arrangements for dealing with Infectious Disease remain as formerly.

(L) CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS—It was not necessary to close any school in the District on account of Infections Disease during the year.

(M) VENEREAL DISEASES—The Scheme for the treatment of persons suffering from Venereal Diseases in the County of West Lothian and the Burghs therein remains in operation as formerly. Patients are treated in Edinburgh. Details will be found in the first part of this report.

(N) TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME—The Scheme for the adminstrative control of Tuberculosis deals with the cases of Tuberculosis in the County of West Lothian and the Burghs therein. Details will be found in the first part of this report.

(O) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE—There is no Scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare in the District.

1. BIRTHS

(a) Number registered—Legitimate	. .	703
Illegitimate	. .	32
		735
(b) Number Notified		598
(c) Number attended by Doctors	. .	418
Number attended by Midwives	. .	316
(d) Number of Still Births	. . .	16

2. INFANTILE MORTALITY—YEAR 1929.

(a) Number of Deaths—72 deaths of children under one year are stated by the Registrar General to have occurred in the District but particulars of 5 of these cannot be traced in my records.

(b) Rate per 1,000 Births . . . 91

(c) Deaths classified according to Age Groups :—

	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months
Measles . . .	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .	0	0	1	0	2
Tuberculous Diseases .	0	0	0	1	1
Meningitis . .	0	0	0	1	0
Convulsions . .	0	0	0	2	1
Pneumonia . .	0	0	0	1	5
Bronchitis . .	0	0	1	1	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis .	0	0	2	1	1
Congenital Malformation	2	1	1	0	0
Congenital Heart .	1	0	2	0	0
Premature Birth .	13	0	0	0	0
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus . .	3	4	1	5	1
Suffocation and Overlaying	1	0	0	0	0
All Other Causes .	0	2	1	4	2
Total	20	7	9	16	15

3. Maternal Mortality

(a) Deaths from Miscarriage or Child-Birth	3
(b) Deaths from Puerperal Fever	5

4. Report under Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915—

A Report under the Act has been sent to the Central Midwives' Board.

Thirty-four Midwives practised in the District and they attended 316 births during 1929.

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred in their practice but there were three cases of Puerperal Sepsis.

Of the 16 Still Births 15 occurred in the practices of Midwives.

The total number of cases of Emergency to which Medical Practitioners were called under Section 22 of the Act numbered 46.

24. Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Regulations—

1. Total Cases—

(a) Puerperal Fever	9
(b) Puerperal Pyrexia	0

2. Cases removed to Infectious Diseases Hospitals—

(a) Puerperal Fever	7
(b) Puerperal Pyrexia	0

3. Deaths—

(a) Puerperal Fever	2
(b) Puerperal Pyrexia	0

6. Assistance provided by Local Authority—

Seven cases removed to Hospital at the expense of the Local Authority.

(p) Notification of Births Act, 1907—Of 735 Births registered in the District 598 were notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

(q) Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Act, 1927—There are no Maternity Homes registered in the District.

(r) Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Acts—

1. & 2. Details will be found in County Veterinary Inspector's Report.

3. Outbreaks caused by Milk—No action necessary.

4. Milk Grading—Details will be found in the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector and the Veterinary Inspector.

(s) Inspection of Meat, etc.—See Report of District Sanitary Inspector.

(t) Factories and Workshops—79 inspections were made of the factories and workshops. Defects were found in 4 cases, all due to want of cleanliness. The defect was remedied in each case.

